

Three held in Balussery for printing fake currency

The friendship between the trio began while serving time at Kozhikode district prison

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Balussery: Three persons have been arrested for printing fake Indian currency notes from a house here. Acting on information, the police team reached the house around 1 am on Tuesday.

The arrested were identified as house owner Rajesh Kumar (45) aka Maninjery Muthu of Balussery, Wilbert (43) of Vytila and Vaisakh (24) of Nallalam.

Police seized counterfeit currency and machines used for printing from the first floor of the house. They also seized 74 bundles of printing papers from beneath a cot, each bundle has 200 sheets. The gang had printed currency in the denominations of Rs 500 and Rs 2,000. Investigations are on to find out the exact amount of counterfeit currency printed and circulated, said police.

Sophisticated machines were used for printing the fake currency. The arrested were involved in other cases and were imprisoned previously. They became friends while in prison. It is learned that Wilbert and Vaisakh had been staying at Rajesh's house for a long time. Crime branch official seized the machines and sealed the house.

Friendship started in prison

With the arrest of the counterfeit currency gang in Balussery, the suspicion about similar local rackets is getting stronger. The friendship between the trio began while serving time at Kozhikode district prison.

Incidentally, Wilbert was serving time in a counterfeit currency printing case. Rajesh was serving time for possessing venison (deer meat). He was nabbed by forest officials from Wayanad. Vaisakh was imprisoned in connection with the Nadapuram bomb blast.

It is learned that after being released from jail six months ago, the trio remained in touch and hatched plans for printing counterfeit currency. Police suspect that Wilbert was the key cog in the case. The machines were brought to Balussery with the help of Wilbert.

According to the information received by police, the accused have been active in the area for over a month. Primary investigations suggested that the illegal currency notes were not circulated.

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